

1723

DOCKET NO.: 4277

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR PATENT

OF: Masao OCHI et al.

| Art Unit: 1723

SERIAL NO.: 09/996,517

| Examiner: M. O. Savage

FILED: November 28, 2001

| Confirmation No.: 3531

FOR: Filtration Apparatus

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

February 25, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH CERTIFICATE OF MAILING ON
LAST PAGE

Dear Sir:

- 1) This is **NOT** a Response to the Office Action of February 5, 2004.
A Response will be timely filed in due course.
- 2) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 applicants enclose a Second Form PTO-1449, copies of the references cited thereon, and a copy of a Singapore Search and Examination Report issued in a counterpart Singapore patent application on February 4, 2004. Note that the search and examination was conducted on behalf of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore by the Austrian Patent Office.

- 3) In compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance and includes the required certification (see next paragraph). Thus no fee is due for this IDS.
- 4) The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement, as seen from the Singapore Search and Examination Report of February 4, 2004.
- 5) Under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d), the undersigned hereby states that each item contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and that such communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- 6) Note that the further reference listed in the Singapore Search and Examination Report was already cited by the U. S. Examiner in this application in the Office Action of May 9, 2003.
- 7) References AE to AG are in English. Thus, no further discussion of the references is required.



Moreover, the enclosed Search and Examination Report indicates the degree of relevance of each of the references AE to AG by category (A = technological background). Also, the Report finds that all claims satisfy all criteria for patentability. Thereby, any requirement for a concise explanation of the relevance has been satisfied (see M.P.E.P. §609).

- 9) Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider all references of record, return an initialled copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to the applicants and ensure that all references of record are printed on any patent issuing from this application.


Respectfully submitted,

Masai OCHI et al.

Applicant

WFF:ar/4277
Enclosure: postcard,
Second Form PTO-1449,
3 references,
Search Report

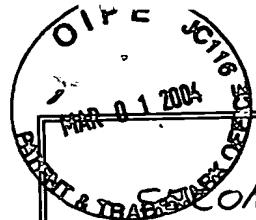
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail, in an envelope addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Anita Morse - February 25, 2004
Name: Anita Morse - Date: February 25, 2004

Sheet 1 of 1Atty. Docket No.
4277Serial No.:
09/996,517SECOND
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY
APPLICANT

(REVISED FORM PTO-1449)

DATED: February 25, 2004Applicant:
Masao OCHI et al.U.S. Filing Date:
November 28, 2001Art Unit:
1723

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	Cl.	Sub- Cl.	Fil. Date
AE	5 0 2 2 9 8 6	06/1991	Lang	-	-	-

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	Cl.	Sub- Cl.	Trans.	
						Yes	No
AF	2 1 9 3 1 1 2	02/1988	Great Britain	-	-	x	
AG	0 3 1 8 0 7 9	05/1989	Europe	-	-	x	

OTHER DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.